

Letter from Ira Allen to Alexander Graham Bell, June 21, 1871, with transcript

duplicate Copied from a collection of Biographical Material on file in Dr. Bell's Room.
Boston, Massachusetts. June 21, 1871. A. Graham Bell, Esq.

The foregoing is a copy of a letter to me from Mr. Philbrick the Superintendent of Schools in this city. The sentiment and approbation is in unison with the unanimous feeling of the Committee of the Deaf-Mute School and eniment men interested in education, and on behalf of the committee permit me to express their feeling of regret that we cannot secure your services for a longer term — and we cheerfully recommend you to the kind consideration of all who are interested in this most noble work of man. You are at liberty to make use of this paper as you desire.

Very truly yours, Ira Allen. Chairman of Deaf-Mute School.

Copy of letters written in 1871 from the Superintendent of Public Schools in Boston, and from the chairman of the “Committee of Deaf-mute School” of the Board of Education of the city of Boston. Both letters were published in the circular issued by Alexander Graham Bell, entitled “Establishment for the Study of Vocal Physiology.” City of Boston. City Hall, June 19, 1871. Dr. Allen, Chairman of Committee on the Deaf-Mute School. My dear Sir:

I wish to express very strongly my approval of the course of your Committee in employing Mr. Graham Bell to teach Visible Speech in your school. The results of his instruction are more than satisfactory; they are wonderful. His system must speedily revolutionize the teaching in all articulating deaf-mute schools. The teachers in our school who have devoted themselves to their work with so much seal, must be greatly encouraged by the acquisition of this powerful instrumentality as an aid in their labors. Henceforth they will work with a far greater definiteness of aim and with far greater satisfaction.

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For my part, I wish Mr. Bell could be employed to teach his system in our Training School. In fact, if it were known to all our teachers, it would greatly add to their efficiency and success in teaching reading, in all the grades, and especially in the Primary classes.

Yours very truly, John D. Philbrick. P. S. The Exhibition at the Deaf-Mute School was gratifying in the highest degree, and I am greatly obliged to you for affording me an opportunity to express my satisfaction. J. D. P.